

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request allowance of the subject application. At the time of the telephone interview on August 3, 2006, claims 1, 3-15, 17-23, and 25-33 were pending. To address the concerns presented by the Examiner, applicants amended claims 1, 3, 6, 9-11, 15, 18, 20, 21, 23, 25-27, 29, and 32, and canceled claim 17. Thus, claims 1, 3-15, 18-23, and 25-33 remained pending at the time of the telephone interview on August 4, 2006. To address concerns arising from the amendments made on August 3, 2006, and as explained by the Examiner during the telephone interview on August 4, 2006, applicants hereby further amend claims 18, 20, 21, and 25 to resolve potential antecedent basis concerns. Finally, to address concerns noted by the Examiner in a communication received on August 5, 2006, applicants further amend claims 23, 25, 27, and 29. In the interest of clarity, this document presents a cumulative set of amendments, including the present amendments and the amendments presented on August 3-4, 2006.

Applicants note that the concerns indicated by the Examiner and the changes to the claims to address those concerns are not made to differentiate or distinguish the claims from prior art, whether cited or otherwise, but to clarify antecedent bases and other points regarding the form of the claims.

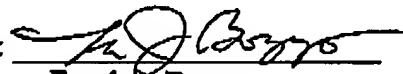
Once again, applicants wish to thank the Examiner for her time and patience in contacting applicants' attorney and discussing these changes to facilitate the allowance of the present application. If applicants' attorney has failed to make changes that satisfy the Examiner's concerns, or the new amendments present other concerns, applicant's attorney humbly requests that the Examiner contact applicants' attorney with regard to any further corrections she deems to be warranted.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1, 3-15, 18-23, and 25-33 are in condition for allowance.
Applicants respectfully request prompt allowance of the subject application. If
any issue remains unresolved that would prevent allowance of this case, the
Examiner is requested to urgently contact the undersigned attorney to resolve
the issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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